

Milden Annual Parish Meeting 16th May
2023

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 16th May 2023 at the Milden Pavilion at
7.00pm

Chairman: Simon Frost
Treasurer: Sandy De'Ath
Clerk: Sara Godfrey
District Councillor – Bryn Hurren
County Councillor – James Finch, did not attend.

Present: Joy Morley, Stephen Morley, Tissa Rigby, Bridget Hawkins.

1. Apologies for absence

were received from Adrian Miles, Sally Miles, Tony Ditheridge, Jan Ditheridge, Joe Coulter, Justine Turner, Denise Thomas, Sarah Harrison, John Harrison.

2. Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 23rd November 2022

The minutes had been distributed before the meeting. These were accepted as an accurate record of that meeting and were duly signed by the Chairman.

Proposed: Stephen Morley Seconded: Tissa Rigby

3. Matters arising from those minutes.

Sandy De'Ath had spoken to Babergh District Council and received confirmation that a SIDs (speed indicator device) sign could be purchased using CIL monies.

We are still seeking more volunteer grit spreaders.

The resurfacing of Pound Lane using road planings had been completed since the last meeting, Parishioners were pleased with the work that had been done to provide a safe and level surface.

4. County Councillor's Report.

James Finch did not attend the meeting. He has remained indisposed since early March due to a family illness. He did not provide a written report.

5. District Councillor's Report

Councillor Hurren gave his report for the year. He kindly provided a written summary which follows:-

“Firstly to report a regrettable 2.9% rise in Babergh's share of the council tax levied to all households across the District. Although this will only mean a £4.00.rise on the annual rate it has to be remembered that the Babergh share of Council tax is now only 8.5% and with other partners going for bigger increases the total increase across the district is likely to be around £70.00 annually on a band D property. This is unsustainable and unaffordable to many in the

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long term and needs some serious thought in the future. While Babergh receive no direct funding from central government any more, I do feel that we still give good value for money with the services that we deliver. This now includes licensing and parking enforcement management, which although fee earning, only just about break even in monetary terms.

Community Infrastructure Monies (CIL) continue to be collected from developers to help pay for local schemes to make up for the extra pressure placed on communities and has helped in all villages across my ward to provide and enhance local facilities and equipment. Babergh currently holds £12m in reserve, to enable local schemes to bid into, with the new swathe of development about to happen, this could go up to £16m by the latter stages of this year.

Environmentally we continue to punch well above our weight with the Solar panels on our council houses pulling in £350,000 of feed in tariffs for our budget this past financial year. Also our combined Suffolk Energy from waste project continues to function well and ensures that no household bin waste goes to landfill and is all used to generate electricity that feeds into the national grid and generates an income for all councils across Suffolk.

With our fleet of waste collection and trade vehicles now running on HVO (hydrated vegetable oil) we continue, along with Mid Suffolk, to punch above our weight in carbon reduction and energy generation. If we wish to do more, much of the new initiatives will have to come through changes in planning laws and government initiatives, this I fear is not going to be easy with a government in power, who just do not get it when it comes to climate change and the emerging energy crisis. Changes can also be enacted through our own local development plan and we may have to go down that route to enact change and the ensuing benefits.

Housing generally across our joint councils remains in crisis, with never enough homes to meet demand and house all those requiring a basic roof over their heads. The dreadful right to buy scheme is still being enacted without proper recompense to councils to replace what is sold off with new dwellings, Baberghmidsuffolk have increased housing stock this past year by 68 much needed houses. This has been done by investing our surplus monies from rents, sales and grants in new housing stock, some of which we have built ourselves.

As a not for-profit-housing landlord we continue to concentrate on building local homes for the local people that need them, also we continue to support and work with Housing Associations to partner and enable them to build homes where needed and as part of private developments. The Build, Build, Build initiative of this present government across swathes of our green sword has done very little to solve the housing crisis as very few needy families in the area they are built can actually afford them, especially since the Trash Autumn Statement that has sent mortgage rates spiralling skywards.

As a result of the recent District elections across Suffolk the political colour has thankfully changed from Blue to Green tinged with a strong golden thread. A vast improvement.

Your council is now made up of 10 Greens, 9 independents, 7 Local Conservatives, 5 Liberal Democrats and one Labour Councillor. An alliance will now be formed to run the Council for the benefit for all constituents without political claptrap and political bias. Long may that continue.

My heartfelt thanks also to those that came out in my own ward to cast their vote and to re-elect myself with such a huge margin.”

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Stephen Morley had two questions for Bryn, both were County Council matters which Bryn agreed to pass on to James Finch. The first was regarding whether cyclists are allowed to use footpaths. They are not, cyclists may only use bridleways and by-ways. Secondly, he wanted clarification regarding verges. It was agreed that SCC owns the first 3 foot from the carriageway and therefore residents should not place items, such as rocks and logs, adjacent to the road to stop motorists driving on the grass. Stephen asked whether James might make this clear in his next report in the BRN.

6. Finance Report

The Treasurer gave the finance report. The Governance Statement and Accounts (attached) had been circulated to the village distribution list before the meeting. Howard Webb has audited the accounts. The Treasurer requested a proposer and seconder for the Governance Statement and the Accounts.

Governance Statement:

Proposer: Joy Morley

Secunder: Tissa Rigby

Accounts:

Proposer: Stephen Morley

Secunder: Bridget Hawkins

We have received, and are due to receive, more CIL money from the developments on Powney Street and at Pound Farm. By October of this year this should amount to around £11k. This money is held on our behalf by Babergh District Council and there is no time limit on expenditure.

There are currently two prospective projects. Firstly, the SIDs sign which was discussed at the last meeting and is being developed by Justine Turner. The second was proposed by Stephen Morley at the meeting. The plan is to replace the wooden decking at the front of the Pavilion with paving slabs. The decking is rotten in places, it has been in situ for well over 10 years, and is also a fire hazard. Stephen had received some rough verbal quotes based on £200 per sqm for different scopes of work that ranged from £6k-£12k. It was agreed that the Pavilion Management Committee should agree on a scope of work and obtain three written quotes. Given the amount involved it was agreed that an application for funds from the general Babergh CIL pot should be made. This would fund 75% with the balance made up from the village pot.

The intention is that both these proposals should be advanced so that we are in a position to vote on them at the next Parish Meeting in November.

7. Pavilion/Recreation Ground Report

Adrian Miles provided a written Pavilion report, which Simon Frost read to the meeting.

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“The Pavilion has been quite busy since the start of 2023 with a number of good events being held there.

Christopher Hawkins presented a very interesting display of the history of Milden and surrounding area which generated a lot of interest and questions from the many people attending. It is good we have someone in the village keeping all this information together.

Alan Braithwaite gave a great presentation of his trip around India in his Morgan Three Wheeler ‘Queen Bee’ which was quite an adventure.

The Milden pavilion is an ideal size for these sort of presentations, we hope there might be another one later in the year by Tony Ditheridge on his Hurricane restorations. If anyone else has something interesting to say the pavilion could be the place.

The Quiz night run by Laure and Andrea was a huge success with lots of fun and laughter through the evening, many thanks to them for putting it on.

The big event this year was the Coronation party which despite the weather was attended by a large number of people who had a great time eating, drinking and dancing to Stumpy Oak who were brilliant.

Justine organised the warm space lunches using a grant from The Coop which were a great success bringing people together socially during the winter. It was so enjoyed by all those attending that we have discussed doing something similar next winter.

With the remaining funding there will be a Pop Up Coffee Morning on Saturday 27th May from 10.30-12.30pm – all welcome.

The next big event is a music evening featuring The Milden Singers and Shanty Folk who are both are looking forward to be back performing at Milden Pavilion on Friday 30th June.

Doors open 7.30pm for Performance at 8pm

Tickets are £8 please email info@mildenspavilion.co.uk or call Pearl on 01449 741876

Evening to include Buffet, Licensed Bar and Charity Raffle

Tickets will soon go on sale for our interactive Murder Mystery Evening by Six Acre Productions who will perform “Murder at Milden Manor” on Saturday 30th September. During scenes a meal will be served.

As a quick heads up we hope to organise the Milden Ball again probably in November this year subject to confirming suitable dates and music and catering.

In the not too distant future we should have high speed broadband installed in the Pavilion, this will be useful for hirers and meetings. Our location has presented some problems but it looks like these are being overcome.

The poor weather has delayed the start of the cricket season but good work by the Groundhogs and our new grass cutter has put the grounds into good shape. Hopefully some of the home games can be supported by more locals.

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The Pavilion is still in reasonable financial health with about £10k in the current account and £11k in the deposit for long term back up. There are several maintenance and enhancement projects that need to be undertaken which will be discussed with a view to using some of the CIL money available to fund village investment.

There is still a vacancy on the committee for someone to look after the Pavilion accounts. Tasks involve recording of financial transactions and organising payments in and out of the bank accounts. The role does not need a qualified accountant and currently involves relatively simple spread sheet work. If anyone is interested please raise your hand at this meeting or contact Sara who will pass on my contact details.

In conclusion we are pleased to say that the pavilion remains in a sustainable position so it can continue to provide a great facility for the village.

Finally other members of the committee would like to thank and recognise all the hard work that Justine Turner does for the Pavilion and all the events that are held here. Without her a lot of this would not happen!

Justine would like to add she really appreciates the support of the committee and for their hard work to get things done.”

8. Any Other Business

Simon Frost and Stephen Morley had attended a meeting organised by the chair of Edwardstone Parish Council, Phil Baker, regarding wildfires and community emergency planning. Representatives from other local Parish Councils as well as Suffolk County Council attended. Freddy Gulliver of SCC gave a presentation regarding emergency planning which requires designated rest and respite centres in the event of an emergency. Such centres should be able to accommodate 100 people for up to 24 hours and, ideally, spaced every 3 miles. In order for the Pavilion to be designated as a rest and respite centre, thereby taking advantage of SCC liability insurance, a 20 page emergency plan for the village would need to be developed. The consensus of the meeting was that this was not necessary in such a small, well-connected village where villagers would voluntarily help one and other in the event of an emergency. In the event of wildfires Stephen Morley said that farmers would help one and other out, as had happened last summer in Groton. A vote was taken and it was unanimously agreed that Simon would revert to Phil Baker to explain our position.

The matting for the car park, purchased with CIL money, will be installed soon. The weather and the Coronation celebrations have caused the delay.

Bryn enquired whether Milden would be participating in the local light-touch Neighbourhood Plan. This would be a joint plan with Monks Eleigh, Brent Eleigh and Kettlebaston to identify the things about Milden that we want to protect. It would require one or two keen volunteers to liaise with our neighbouring villages, we could dovetail our contribution into the Monks Eleigh led document. Anyone interested please get in touch with Sara Godfrey on sara@serenshall.com

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Justine Turner has suggested that mugs or coins commemorating the Coronation be given to all the under 18 children in the village. A vote was taken and this was agreed by all. The cost will be £10 or under per item.

The Pavilion Committee has requested that the Parish make a contribution to the cost of the band at the recent Coronation celebrations. It was agreed to contribute £200.

9. Date of next Meeting

We will aim to hold the next meeting in November, date to be advised nearer the time.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.15pm.

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Receipt and Payment Account For year 1st April 2022 to March 2023

31/03/22		31/03/2023	
£	Receipts	£	Variance
943.79	Precept Babergh DC	962.64	18.85
44	General Payment	0	-44
987.79	TOTAL	962.64	-25.15
PAYMENTS			
38.60	SALC	38.67	0.07
73	FIT Insurance	62	-11
49.07	Anglian Water	151.65	102.58
320	Milden PCC (Grass)	0	-320
14.52	Justine Turner Misc	79.81	65.29
0	Jubilee coins	122	122
0	SCC Quiet Roads	50	50
495.19	TOTAL	504.13	
Receipts and payments summary			
3552.5	Balance brought forward as of 1 st April	4045.10	492.6
	987.79	Add total receipts	962.64 -25.15
4540.29	Total	5007.74	467.45
495.19	Deduct total payments	504.13	8.94
4045.10	Balance carried forward as at 31st March	4503.62	458.52
Cumulative Funds Represented by:			
4045.10	Lloyds Treasurers Account	4503.62	458.52

Signed

CHAIR

Date

Approved at the Annual Parish Meeting held on the above date. The above statement represents fairly the financial position of the authority as at 31st March 2023 and reflects its receipt and payments during that year.

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Milden Parish Meeting Budget 2023-2024.

Current Year (estimate) £

Previous Year (actual) £

Expenditure

Water	150	151
Insurance FIT	70	62
SALC	38	38
Grass cutting	300	0
Graveyard		
Phone box paint	0	34
Jubilee coins	0	122
30 mph signs	0	45
SCC Quiet Roads	0	50
Total	558	504

Income

Carried forward	4503	4045
Precept	981	963
Total	5484	5008